THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The telephone tariff in India is low when compared to many other countries.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The comparison was made with reference to the call charges rental for telephones and international subscriber dialled calls from other countries to India.

(c) The Telecom. Services have not been deteriorating but are rather improving progressively.

Athreya Committee Report

121. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Athreya Committee report on restructuring of DOT and MTNL has been accepted by Government;

(b) if so, what is the stage of implementation of the recommendations;

(c) whether it is a fact that the MTNL staff is still considered on deputation from DOT, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to pay deputation allowance to the employees from 1986 till the final absorption in MTNL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (d) The Athreya Committee Report on restructuring of Department of Telecom. is under active consideration of the Government. At present the staff working in the Delhi/Bombay Units of MTNL are on deemed deputation basis without deputation allowance.

Pension cases pending with Chief Post Master General, Calcutta

122. SHRI SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the pension cases of the widows of erstwhile employees of the department have been pending for settlement for many years with the Chief Post Master General, West Bengal, Calcutta;

(b) whether Government propose to direct the authorities to dispose of these cases expeditiously; and

(c) what is the number of cases that have come to the notice during the last one year and the number of disposals made and the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Trunk Call system in Andhra Pradesh

123. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are frequent complaints that trunk calls made to various places from Andhra Pradesh not linked by STD do not get through and trunk calls from outside the state are well attended and calls get through; and

(b) what steps are being taken to ensure better performance of Andhra Pradesh TELECOM in the matter of getting trunk calls getting through ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No Sir.